

# THE CHRYSALIDS

key:

themes

general

Insights

characterisation

devices

## CHAPTER 1:

### PLOT POINTS:

- Starts with David having a dream of an Old People city with “*shiny fish-shaped things in the sky*” → David asks his sister, Mary about this but she says that no such place exists. She tells him that he should keep this dream to himself, foreshadowing the secrets he has to keep later on in the novel
- David meets Sophie, and she begrudgingly reveals her toes to him after getting injured. David gradually realises she has six toes → he doesn't notice because he regards her as a friend and isn't focused on outward appearances (childlike innocence)
- Incident with Sophie's toe should've gotten a response out of David since it was preached that human beings shouldn't have extra toes, but the fact that seeing her toes doesn't trigger the thoughts of the rules shows how easy it is to memorise something without understanding it

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## CHAPTER 2:

### PLOT POINTS:

- David goes home. Around his home are proverbs from a book called the Repentances e.g. “Watch thou for the Mutant!” → Waknukians feel this need to protect themselves from what they don't understand (‘ignorance is bliss mindset’)

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## CHAPTER 4

### THEMES:

- Prejudice: sterilisation of Blasphemies so that they wouldn't be able to reproduce → emphasis that they want to have **an untainted and pure society**
- **Reliability of sources:** the only information that the Waknukians rely on are from the Bible & Nicholson's Repentances → who's to confirm the reliability and truth of these sources?
- Progress & gradual acceptance of mutants through the greathorses **(SYMBOLISM)**

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- David sees people from the Fringes and expects them to look monster-like (based on the descriptions he has been told), instead one of them even resembles his own father
- Joseph gets into a fight with the inspector about the horses as they're abnormally large → horses were bred and "man-made" → government has no qualms about this but Joseph does as he views them as mutations and not in the image of god → **horses represent gradual acceptance of deviants and freedom**
- The government is simply using horses for more profits & gains → ideas of justice and fairness **depends on how much they gain.**
- Uncle Axel is different from a lot of other characters as **he questions the norm and is a lot more accepting (non-conforming)** → not prejudiced like most Waknukians

### TIMELINE:

- Since Canada is cold in the present world and Labrador WAS cold → we are the Old People → Waknuk is a city of the future (expected to be more progressive) and everyone got wiped out by nuclear war → led to deviations because of the effects of radiation
- (pg 33) *"Out of that blankness stretched a few strands of legend, badly frayed in their passage through successive minds."* → successive minds is a metaphor for people. A few strands of legend refers to many different interpretations. → eventually Nicholson's Repentances was what people decided to follow because they believed it to be from the time of the Old People

### AXEL'S IMPORTANCE

- Uncle Axel is presented as an important character because of his divergence in mindset compared to the rest of the characters, he questions the truth and doesn't just conform to the truth that the Bible and Nicholson's Repentances present. He's also the **only reliable**

adult figure in the book who serves as a mentor to David and guides him on what to do as a Deviation

- Serves as a contrast in characterisation compared to Joseph Storm, who's David's own father, yet David feels hesitant in approaching him because Joseph used violence in order to get an answer out of his own son, and believed the words of another child (Alan) who claimed his son was hiding a mutant instead of talking to him in a civil manner → **constantly talks down to David** instead of treating him like his own child and with respect

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## ETHICS & HISTORY OF WAKNUK

- "Out of that blankness stretched a few strands of legend, badly frayed in their passage through successive minds." → this means that as the story gets passed down from person to person, the real truth gets distorted and leads nobody to know what truly happened → **ethics of Waknuk aren't backed by reliable sources.**

## ETHICS

### WHAT ARE ETHICS?

- Ethics are unwritten rules and beliefs of what people should do and should not do based on right or wrong in society. The government and religious leaders decide what ethics are.

### ETHICAL SYSTEMS IN THE CHRYSALIDS

- Nicholson's Repentances & the Bible are the systems they follow. Both books originate from the time of the Old People and are to be strictly followed; if one doesn't resemble the image of God, they would be considered Blasphemies and outcasted.
  1. System 1: people in Waknuk who consider anything not in the image of god to be blasphemous
  2. System 2: people in the Fringes who don't believe they're wrong. Because of the bad living conditions in the Fringes, they have to raid Waknuk for resources (food, supplies) → they feel that **Waknukians deserve it because in the first place, Waknukians were the ones who kicked them out**
  3. System 3: Zealanders: a group of people with telepathic abilities → they feel that they're superior because **their telepathetic abilities are more advanced than telepaths in Waknuk** → in their society, anyone who doesn't have telepathic abilities is outcast and inferior. **They feel that they need to do this to ensure constant advancement/progress (survival of the fittest mindset) → they don't feel any guilt murdering/killing people who aren't like them (non-telepaths) [THEME: PREJUDICE, PROGRESS]**

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4. System 4: David & the group of telepaths: their ethics are that they'll never harm their own kind (the Anne incident where they didn't kill her even though she posed a threat to the group and risk their safety)

## THE TRIBULATION & STORY IT RESEMBLES

- It resembles the story of Noah's Ark and the Great Flood (bible) which saw all creatures destroyed
- (DEFINITION OF TRIBULATION IN THE BOOK) Tribulation → a way God punished the old people for their sinful behaviour, a form of punishment to the people who had a phase of irreligious arrogance prevailing at the time. Before Tribulation, it was the Golden Age, a period where people were religiously faithful & abiding
- "Irreligious arrogance" → refers to non-religious behaviours

**Commented [2]:** so. there's a waknukian definition of tribulation, which is what i explained. but there's an axel definition of tribulation/ OUR definition of tribulation, which is the nuclear war wiping everyone out and yadayada

**Commented [3]:** think there cld be essay questions asking about tribulation and what it is, so you have to be careful when answering because they could be asking OUR definition or waknuk's definition

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## CHAPTER 5

### THEMES:

- Prejudice (against Blasphemies)

### BLASPHEMIES, GREATHORSES

- David & Sophie go around Waknuk to play → Alan finds out about Sophie's deviation.
- They run back to Sophie's place, and Sophie's parents have already packed their bags → **shows how the life of those considered deviants have been affected by the laws and they always have to cower and live in fear**, and it also shows how much Sophie & family have to sacrifice because of one small deformity → **Wenders leave with horses which symbolise freedom** (compared to carts which leave tracks, horses don't. They're easier to escape with)
- When David goes home, he's met with his father and the Inspector. Joseph is fuming because he discovered from Alan that Sophie is Blasphemous (and he knows Sophie is David's friend) + David was concealing a Blasphemy → David beaten by Joseph with a whip

## JOSEPH VS INSPECTOR MORTON

- Their reactions:
  - Joseph reacts with anger and disbelief, pressuring David to tell the truth → shows his firm beliefs in Nicholson's Repentances and image of god. Joseph felt that David's denial challenged his beliefs, leading to an outburst → Joseph is so indoctrinated by NR that it blinds him from truth and logic + David is a mere child who may not know better but Joseph doesn't spare him from his wrath [THEMES: PREJUDICE, MORALITY]
  - Joseph's reaction is caused by desire to maintain social order and had the perception that Deviations were a threat, which is why he was so angry at David's involvement
  - Inspector Morton's reaction was more calm → doesn't display the same anger/personal beliefs as Joseph → his reaction as he handles the situation shows a greater acceptance of Blasphemies → more objective/open-minded as he doesn't jump to conclusions → his approach was less confrontational
  - Both reactions are similar in the aspect that they were tasked with enforcement of the law

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## CHAPTER 6

### THEMES:

1. Truth, reliability of sources

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- David tells friends about Sophie's deformity, and the group struggles with the notion that Blasphemies aren't evil → first instance in which the **group was exposed to a piece of truth that the Waknukians didn't believe in**
- David finds out the Wenders got caught → a few days later, David confides in Axel about running away. Axel cautions him against it, saying that he'd be caught and brought back, and he suggests David runs away when he's older instead. David asks about places outside Labrador:
  - Axel says that the Badlands are very Godless
  - (pg 50) *"when people are used to believing a thing is such-and-such a way, and the preachers want them to believe that that's the way it is, it's trouble you get, not thanks, for upsetting their ideas."* (example of this being Marther who was tried for heresy)

- To Axel, the fact that the people of Waknuk don't know the truth about the rest of the world means that Waknuk is a more peaceful place than it otherwise might be.
- As a result of constant indoctrination because of the Waknukians' lack of reliable resources, Waknukians are **so conformed to societal beliefs and they don't want to venture out to learn more and prefer to stay in the dark** and remain at status quo, leading to **discrimination against those unlike them (Blasphemies)** **[theme: prejudice, blind conformity]**
- Axel tells David of sailors who visited the Badlands to find mutated crops (shocked because they were taught nothing could grow outside of Labrador) → everyone got sick and stopped exploring
  - instead, the sailors chose to believe the area south of Labrador was devoid of life; a belief that pleased authorities as it confirms teachings of NR because it discouraged further exploration → sailors brought back unreliable information because they were all sick
  - Orthodox people refer to those like Joseph Storm (people who believe NR)
- Later, people got curious and an explorer named Marther went south:
  - His journals argued that the church was wrong and these areas could actually sustain life → tried for heresy & authorities considered banning voyages south
  - During this, a ship thought to be lost came back to Labrador bearing spices and metals (unable to determine purity of spices because of unknown origins) → desire for spices prompted more Southward exploration
- Axel tells David that lands outside are inhabited by those who don't abide by Purity laws or have a different understanding of what a Mutant is:
  - People classified as Deviations in Waknuk consider themselves to be the perfect image, and view Waknukians as the mutants → difference in perspective
  - Waknukians' definition of what's considered normal comes from NR, which was written long after Tribulation, and it might not present an accurate picture **[THEME: FACT VS OPINION, RELIABILITY OF SOURCES]**

## DAVID'S RS WITH AXEL VS JOSEPH

1. David & Axel:
  - David trusts Axel enough to confide in him about his issues, to the extent that **David has trusted Axel with the fact that he's a telepath**, which could lead to him being exiled if this information got out
  - David wants Axel to protect him by giving him advice → Axel treats David as an equal, and **their conversations are always insightful with David being receptive to what Axel says**. (if daddy axel gave me advice i wld be receptive too.....)
2. David & Joseph:

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- Accusations and protests are always involved in conversations with many heated arguments, and Joseph always talks down to David

## CHAPTER 7:

### THEMES:

1. Racism & fear of the unknown
  - Issuing of normalcy certificates to prove if one deserves to live
2. Morality:
  - Using religion as an excuse to commit immoral acts

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- David's mum, Emily, gives birth but nobody is allowed to discuss it until the baby is proven to be normal → everyone on edge because Emily didn't receive certificates for the last 2 babies but if she didn't receive one this time, Joseph could choose to send her away:
  - Only after the normalcy certificate was issued could Petra's existence be acknowledged → shows **how pervasive the effects of Waknuk's system of eliminating anyone who's not in the IOG**
  - Usually after the birth of a child, it's supposed to be celebrated yet in Waknuk, the whole process has to be kept a secret until the baby is proven to be normal → shows how deeply rooted the prejudice in society is
  - It takes both husband and wife for the baby to be born, yet only the woman is blamed for the deviation of a child → **WOMEN IN WAKNUK ARE MADE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVIATIONS THEY GIVE BIRTH TO** → shows conservative and regressive nature of their society **(theme: regression)**
- After David looked at Petra, he thought that she "looked so pink and wrinkled I did not see how the Inspector could have been quite sure about her." → foreshadowing that Petra would turn out to be a Blasphemy, also shows **that Waknuk might be too reliant on using physical appearance**
- David sees Emily's sister, Aunt Harriet, and he learns that she didn't get an approval for her baby → Emily calls Harriet's baby 'a monster'.
  - Harriet was afraid her baby would be identified as a Mutant and that her husband would turn her out
  - Joseph walks in, and Emily refers to Harriet's baby as "*defilement*" and "*mockery of your maker*" (disgrace to God as a blasphemy and they should be ashamed) Joseph berates her, says that she should be **ashamed as she's ruining the chances of achieving the Golden Age** → says that people like her taint the race

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- Harriet thought Emily would help her no matter what, because as family they should never forsake one another → **values conformity to societal norms over family**, which shows how **unempathetic and unfeeling they've become** (theme: prejudice)

## HARRIET'S POV

- (pg 65) "I've done nothing to be ashamed of. I am not ashamed- only beaten." → beaten by the values and rules they have in Waknuk
  - Harriet tells him that she "shall pray to God to send charity into this hideous world" and "I shall pray Him, too, that the hearts of the self-righteous may be broken..." (pg 65) example of how religion can be used as **an excuse to justify immoral behaviour** → she suggests that this world is cruel, cold, prejudiced, biased against the weak → caused by their prejudice against those that are not considered pure **[THEME: RACISM, FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN]**
- Emily cries. She's in a similar predicament as Harriet in the aspect that they both gave birth to 2 deviations, and if Emily's baby was proven to be a deviation, Joseph would treat her the exact same way he did to Harriet
- David starts to question what's wrong with not fitting in with the IOG, questioning the values of Waknuk and true image

## CHAPTER 8

### THEMES:

1. Ways of knowing (lack of scientific knowledge in Waknuk)
2. Fear of the unknown (Mutants' POV: fear of being found out)
3. Time & progress: evolution/regression of Waknuk

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- David talks to Axel about what would happen if the government found out he was different as the curiosity aroused from the conversation he overheard between Harriet and Emily + disappearance of Walter Brent makes David even more unsure
- Axel believes that no matter how wonderful the Old People were, they weren't wonderful enough not to make mistakes, serving as a reason why they shouldn't follow the OP + **if they do follow the OP, won't history just repeat itself?**



- Uncle Axel suggests that if the preachers were to question their beliefs and consider the possibility of being wrong, they might start to reconsider their strict views on Deviations and Mutations, **this could lead to a shift in their understanding and treatment of people who are different.**
- Axel asks David what he thinks makes a man a man, which then David replies with the Definition. Uncle Axel then cuts him off, and uses a wax figure as an example to show that the definition is a bunch of lies. *"A wax figure could have all that, and he'd still be a wax figure."* (pg 71) → a man's mind, morals & character is his essence
- Uncle Axel states that David, Rosalind and the others have got a new quality of mind, and says that to pray to God to take their ability which is seen as a Deviation in their society, is the exact same as asking God to strike them blind → **views telepathy as a blessing than curse**

## WHY FOLLOW THE OLD PEOPLE?

- Axel says, (pg 69) *"Remember what I told you. They think they are the true image- but they can't know for sure. And even if the Old People were the same kind as I am and they are, what of it? Oh, I know people tell tales about how wonderful they were and how wonderful their world was, and how one day we'll get back again all the things they had. There's a lot of nonsense messed up in what they say about them, but even if there's a lot of truth too, what's the good of trying so hard to keep in their tracks? Where are they and their wonderful world now?"* → the big question is: **why follow the old people?**
- Uncle Axel has a very clear opinion of Old People. Nobody was there to witness the time of the Old People. Uncle Axel is **more perspective and aware of the world because he was a sailor** → has **more experience & insight of the world**, exposed to a lot more than the average Waknukian, exploring the world and your own experiences shapes the way you think (for Axel, **he is more open-minded and critical because of his travels**)
  - Axel's constant questioning sets him apart from the rest of the characters who blindly accept the truth about Waknuk for what it is → he's inquisitive and knowledgeable

## WAKNUKIANS' CONFORMITY

- Waknukians have a lack of knowledge about the world and hence don't question what the government says.
  - The people are refrained from travelling out of Waknuk (banned explorations into the south, refer to Marther) and told that there was nothing outside Waknuk as the govt fears that **they'd discover things outside NR and start to doubt NR** → question the norms as they've gained new knowledge → start to oppose authorities and not conform

- The people are sheltered & don't question the rules of Waknuk → blinded to the truth (**BLIND CONFORMITY**) (pg 55) *"well, what real evidence have we got about the true image?"* → his constant questioning and reliance on science and logic makes him very perceptive and nonconforming
- Waknuk is regressing as they choose to stick to their version of the truth and they aren't questioning the reliability of information from NR and the lack of exploration whilst the rest of the world is progressing → as time goes on, they only regress  
**[THEME: TIME & PROGRESS]**

### WAKNUK'S REGRESSION:

- Very traditionalist views: women are made to be responsible for any Deviations they give birth to. Example: Aunt Harriet, the wives' husbands can kick them out and take another wife → **regressive belief of women's roles**. Emily had no choice but to tell Harriet to get out of her house. Joseph is a preacher and if Emily went against the rules of Waknuk, she would get kicked out of the house as well. She felt helpless and cried but still had no choice. Women take a very submissive role and inferior gender in Waknuk, despite the fact that Waknuk is a city in the future and is supposed to be PROGRESSING IN THE FUTURE (**irony**)
- Schooling in Waknuk is very simple because the Orthodox people don't want educated Waknukians because **knowledge is power!** (CONTRAST BETWEEN AXEL & ORTHODOX PEOPLE)
- The world of Old People (us) is a lot more accepting of different people compared to Waknuk. A city of the future (Waknuk) would be expected to be more progressive than cities of old (Old People). **Even though Waknuk is a society in the future, they're regressing.**

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## CHAPTER 9

### THEMES:

1. Fear of the unknown (unknown being Petra's ability)

### KEY PLOT POINTS/INSIGHTS:

- Discovery of Petra's telepathetic ability → David & Rosalind postpone telling Petra about her ability because she's too young → she **would be the weakest link amongst them**, because she's young and has a shallow understanding of how dangerous being a Mutant

is and might expose them. David's group has to **live in a contrived/controlled manner to keep their identities hidden**

- David compares himself to the *"stupidest norm"* (pg 77), saying that they would be happier because that person would be normal in the eyes of the Waknukians, and feel a sense of belonging, unlike a **Blasphemy like him who has to endure so much hardship because of his God Given ability (theme: prejudice)**
  - Jacob tells David that the failed crops are a punishment for the people who are lazy about the destroyed Deviations.
    - Deviations used to be burnt and now they are not, instead they are stripped of their ability to reproduce and cast out into the Fringes → leaves David horrified as he learns what happens to the Deviations → leads to David feeling more cautious about his deviation being revealed
    - Jacob says the destroyed crops are God's punishment for Waknuk's punishments becoming lighter: in the past, Deviations used to be burnt but now they're exiled into the fringes → Jacob makes it seem as though Waknuk has progressed in terms of the leniency of their punishments, dismissing the fact that it's still very unethical & depraved to do so
    - While Waknukians have become more "merciful" in their treatment of Deviations and mutants, it is **ironic as they might seem less harsh but they are still ostracising them (theme: morality, time & progress)**
  - Uncle Axel reassures David that **it is because of the bad weather** that there is an increase in the Deviation rates. He's **relying on the science of things**, unlike Jacob.
    - He warns David that the Waknukians would look for something to blame for it → shows how the Waknukians are **not truly concerned with finding out the truth of the world, and would automatically shift the blame onto the devil or deviations** stemming from a lack of understanding. Uncle Axel is the voice of reason and representative of progress because he is non-conforming
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## CHAPTER 10

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- Anne announced marriage to Alan, the person who found out about Sophie's Deviation and reported it. The group tries to reason with her but to no avail
  - She believes that she **should not be confined to the telepaths just because she was born this way**, and feels that they won't understand because they've never been in love → Anne feels that **she deserves the right to get the best out of her life (theme: prejudice)** Blasphemies are unable to receive treatment like normal people.

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- David feels that even without marriage, **she'll have a sense of belonging to the telepaths VS getting married to a norm** → has to conceal & throw her identity away which **defeats the purpose of a marriage**
- Anne is conforming to the norms of society → she has to reject her own identity in order for her to fit into society, making her lose pieces of herself just so she can live a normal life: is this fair to her, just because she's a Mutant?
- The logical thinking would be to kill Anne because she's a **potential liability** and could expose the group, but David doesn't want to because of his own morals & principles. Additionally, David would be killing his own kind & severing the connection.
- Anne exposes the telepaths in her suicide note → she has no qualms about exposing the group of telepaths, which contrasts with the group's attitude as they didn't want to sacrifice her but she has no hesitation in outing them **[THEME: BETRAYAL]**

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## CHAPTER 11

### INCITING INCIDENT:

- Petra's call for help summons the group to her, and it also brings along Jerome, who has started to harbour suspicions about their group. The group starts making plans for escape.

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## CHAPTER 12

### INCITING INCIDENT:

- David is packing his bags when he finds out from Michael that Katherine & Sally have been taken → flees with Petra on their horses (symbolism of horses!!>!&\$&^&@\*)

### INSIGHTS:

- Michael tells Petra, David and Rosalind that the authorities are furious, as **most Deviations can be seen with the eye but David and his group can't**, and the people are upset because they have lived with the Mutants for so long → the authorities are terrified because they're Deviations and also because they don't understand this deviation. + shows that the idea of the true image is very flawed because it's **over-reliant on physical appearances**

## CHAPTER 13

### INCITING INCIDENT:

- The authorities have found the trio's trails, and Petra learns more about Sealand from the woman.
  - A "horseman" finds David, Rosalind and Petra. He misses while trying to shoot and Rosalind shoots his horse. The three venture into Wild Country.
    - Petra overhears Michael's message to David and doesn't understand why anyone would want to hurt her when she's not hurting anyone else → he explains that **fear makes people angry and violent**, and that their enemies are motivated by a "feel-things not a think-things."
    - Petra talks to the Sealand woman and learns that everyone there can think-together, and she also says that the **Sealand people feel sorry for those unable to think-together**. The Sealand woman feels the same way about **those un-telepaths the same way Waknukians feel about telepaths**.
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## CHAPTER 14

### INCITING INCIDENT:

- The group meets the leader of the Fringes.

### INSIGHTS:

- The Fringes man was nice and told David that God turned the Fringes into Wild Country and eventually civilised land. He says that **the influence of the Devil is more present in Waknuk than in the Fringes because of Waknuk's stubbornness to adapt to new ways**.
  - He explains that the OP thought they were made in the IOG, and God destroyed them in Tribulation & questions why Waknuk wants to mimic them since they died.
  - He says God never dies and consequently is always changing things. To him, **God sent Tribulation as a reminder that nothing can stay the same forever**.
  - Asserts that it's impossible for authorities to know what's a deviation & what's not, they believe they have this knowledge out of arrogance & a desire to control life, which is inherently not under human control.

- Petra gets in touch with the Sealand woman, who says she's one of the **New People**, who are united by telepathy & want to rebuild a world destroyed by OP → unconcerned with the IOG, but believes in the power of communal thought **(REAL WORLD ALLEGORY: Hitler's ideology that all inferior races should be purged)**
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## CHAPTER 15

### INCITING INCIDENT:

- David meets Sophie again, only to find out how much she's changed.
  - Sophie says, *"To be any kind of deviant is to be hurt- always."* (pg 155)
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## CHAPTER 16

### THEMES:

1. Racism
2. Morality
3. Ways of knowing
4. Time & progress (evolution)

### KEY PLOT POINTS:

- Sophie tells Rosalind to get rid of the cross she's wearing as the people in the Fringes don't like insistence on the IOG. The cross may have protected her in Waknuk, but the people in the Fringes **thought of it as an insistence of the true image and even as a 'challenge'**.
  - REAL WORLD ALLEGORY: Jewish had star cross to mark impurity; CONTRAST compared to Waknuk: those in Waknuk who were "pure" wore crosses → segregation of impure & pure (races)
  - Sophie has become hardened by experiences in the Fringes, and she's become bitter and distrustful
- (pg 169) *"The living form defies evolution at its peril"* → as long as you live, evolution can't be avoided

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- (pg 169) "The idea of a completed man is the supreme vanity: the finished image is a sacrilegious myth." → chasing after an ideal is going against the norm in the Sealanders' view
- The Sealanders are very clear in their ideology → the fragments refer to different types that came out after Tribulation: Orthodox People (Joseph) → Orthodox People, David and group refer to the fragment of Mutants
- (pg 169) "They have become history without becoming aware of it." → suggesting that the Sealanders think that Joseph and their kind will die out, together with their **antiquated beliefs**.
  - **THEME: time & progress.** (pg 169) "So, there is a severance. We have a new world to conquer: they only have a lost cause to lose." → the Waknukians' beliefs won't survive in the new world, as they are now considered outdated & conservative → shows that there'll always be a new group of people to replace the old ones
  - The Sealand woman went to Waknuk for **her own benefit** because she's in awe of Petra's ability
  - Waknukians are still fighting with bows & arrows, which is a contradiction as **they're in a futuristic setting and it's supposed to be an advanced city**
  - **CAUSES OF REGRESSION:** much of what they had before Tribulation was wiped out, they didn't explore outside of Waknuk, and they're unaccepting of anything different from what they considered the norm
  - The Sealanders arrive in their spaceship, the exact same one David dreams of in chapter one → **FORESHADOWING: his dream becomes reality**

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## AXEL AS AN IMPT. CHARACTER

### 1. Symbol of progress:

- He doesn't blindly conform → doesn't follow preachings of NR like **much of Waknukian society (symbolises regression)**. There's no way to prove what the True Image is
- Relies on **science & logic**, rather than a religious text with baseless alleged claims → ultimately comes to the conclusion that Tribulation must've been caused by man, because he believes this instability and mess of Deviations makes no sense, and Axel says that they've got to believe God is sane, meaning Tribulation only could have been caused by man (pg 70)

### 2. More expertise and knowledge, and he's more open-minded because he was a sailor

- More perceptive and nonconforming can sift through what's backed by reason and logic and what shouldn't be followed (NR)

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3. Axel is more like David's father than Joseph is (irony)/ foil character to Joseph

- David confiding in Axel more than Joseph
- Joseph whipping David and not hesitating to use violence against his own son: conversations between them are always accusatory and one-sided → Joseph never accepts what David says and believes the words of another child instead of David during the Sophie incident → shows he values maintaining the purity of the race over his own family

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## PREJUDICE SHAPING CHARACTER

([Weighted Assessment 3 - Review](#))

1. Harriet pleading with Emily to swap babies so she could get a certificate of Normalcy (chapter 7) → PREJUDICE SHAPING CHARACTER
  - Emily doesn't help her sister and was baffled/infuriated that Harriet had brought it up → disregards that it was merely a newborn who was condemned just because it didn't fit into the IOG, and they treat it as if it doesn't have the same rights to exist like everyone else
  - As a result of Emily's prejudice, she has become uncompassionate and unsympathetic: she's unwilling to help her biological sister and believes the baby doesn't have the same value as any other human being.
  - Moreover, Emily had been in the exact same position as her last 2 babies were Deviations but she's still unable to sympathise
  - **(PREJUDICE SHAPING SOCIETY)** She has this kind of reaction because Waknukians have been indoctrinated to think that anyone not in the IOG didn't deserve the same rights to live → overreliance on using the True Image because David & his group fit the IOG, but their Deviation had to do with their mind.
    - Results in people valuing the True Image over kinship and family ties
  - Waknuk's an oppressive society that pushes people into a corner (shown with Aunt Harriet's suicide) → no sympathy for the weak
    - An unsympathetic world is caused by prejudice of the people who can't accept anyone who isn't Pure.

Who suffers from this prejudice in society?

- Women are the ones held accountable for the birth of Deviations, as they're turned out of their households while the husband has to face little consequences, but it takes both husband and wife to have a child. → **conservative beliefs as a result of regression**

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- Shows how traditional and conservative the laws in Waknuk are, and how they're a futuristic city yet they still follow such traditional norms → sign of regression

- **REAL WORLD ALLEGORY:**

- In Nazi Germany, Jews were sterilised. Similarly, Deviations are sterilised in Waknuk because they want to uphold the purity of the race

2. Alan's reaction to Sophie & Joseph's reaction to David's concealment of Sophie → PREJUDICE SHAPING CHARACTER

- (chapter 5) Such a young child like Alan was already so prejudiced against mutants, and he got very worked up, *"and there was a gleam in his eye that I did not like. 'Who is she?' he demanded again."* (pg 38) → shows how embedded prejudice is in their society that he has such strong views against Mutants, NR was deeply ingrained in him since such a young age (desire to find out who Sophie is to report her)
- Alan acted out of fear (stems from belief that Mutants are dangerous) and it causes people to behave irrationally
- (chapter 5) Joseph was infuriated. *"He fired half a dozen questions at me, looking fierier every second when I did not answer them."* (pg 44) → accuses David when he doesn't know the full story and berates him, even resorting to beating David in an attempt to get answers out of him (wanted to snatch Morton's whip to punish him) → irrational behaviour as a result of prejudice, he's unrelenting and unreasonable
- Joseph only wants to hear what he wants: that David concealed a Blasphemy and instead of hearing him out, he jumps to conclusions and punishes David → cruel, irrational
- Moreover, Joseph also believes Alan (a random child) over David, his own blood
  - Contrast: Morton is a lot more objective & reasonable, and he even stops Joseph from using his whip to beat David. *" 'I said that is my whip,' he repeated, with a hard, ominous note in his voice."* (pg 45)

IRONIES:

1. Preachers (Joseph) are supposed to have a unifying role in society, to bring different types of people together. What's ironic is that Joseph **uses his role to fragment the society**; he constantly preaches about Blasphemies and Deviations (rallies the Orthodox people to exile them from society)
2. People expect preachers to be calm & lend a listening ear as the people often confide in them about problems. However, Joseph can't even rationally listen to his son without accusing him → shows that he's incapable of functioning as a leader of the church

- As a leader of Waknuk, with great power comes great responsibility, people with power usually have a big impact with the words they speak as it impacts society, and they should be a role model (Joseph isn't a role model)
3. Preachers express devotion and faithfulness to God, but enacting violence against Blasphemies is **considered ungodly behaviour** (God teaches us to do good, and not be violent and hurt others)

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## PREJUDICE SHAPING SOCIETY:

([Weighted Assessment 3 - Review](#))

1. Inspection of newborns for Deviations:
    - Newborns who show even the slightest deviation that doesn't follow that of NR are exiled and sent into the Fringes → creates an atmosphere of fear & paranoia in society.
    - Shows how pervasive prejudice is in Waknuk, to the extent that the life of a newborn can't be acknowledged till it's proven they're not a Blasphemy. Childbirths are meant to be occasions that are celebrated but in this case, it is one that is solemn and not to be talked about till the child is proven to be "normal".
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## WAKNUK, THE FRINGES & SEALAND

([1c. P1 Sample Paper - Prose ANS](#))

Similarities:

1. Each society is anchored in their own beliefs  
Waknuk is anchored in the True Image doctrine, evidenced by instances such as:
  - Joseph's and Emily's reaction to Harriet's third child (chapter 7, pg63-66)
  - Sophie incident (chapter 5): Alan finding out and Joseph's reaction (emphasise on the fact that Alan was merely a child, and the ideas of NR had been drilled into him from such a young age that it's almost instinct for him to want to report her to the authorities)
  - (chapter 10) Anne (Blasphemy) throws her identity away and rejects her telepathy to marry a man, shows how much Blasphemies have to suffer in society (**society shaping character**)

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- Axel providing solace for David after David talks to Jacob about the punishment for Deviations (chapter 9, pg 78-81):
  - Many people in Waknuk don't think like him because they don't question the norms. While many Waknukians have **blindly conformed to the preachings of NR**, Axel uses science and logic to explain why the crops have gotten bad instead of just stating that it is a punishment for all the Deviations who had gotten away

As a result, Waknuk clings onto the past and strives towards recreating the Golden Age (the time of the Old People)

The people of the Fringes reject the True Image doctrine, seeing the **pursuit of genetic perfection as oppressive and misguided.**

- (pg 142) The leader of the Fringes says, *"It's your parts where the old Devil's hanging on and looking after his own. Arrogant, they are. The true image, and all that... Want to be like the Old People. Tribulation hasn't taught 'em a thing."*
- (pg 143) *"...because they've got the arrogance to think themselves perfect. As they reckon it, they, and only they, are in the true image..."* → the leader of the Fringes feel that change is inevitable, and Waknukians think themselves so superior to the point that they don't accept anything outside of what they deem to be the true IOG. and that they're limiting themselves to certain features of a man
- Views Mutants to be evolutionary progress rather than abominations

Sealanders believe in unity, achieved through their telepathic abilities. Telepathy is seen as a greater means of communication, and a sign of human superiority.

- (pg 145) *"there was, you see, no real communication, no understanding between them. They could, at their best, be near-sublime animals, but not more."* (the Sealand woman talking about the old people) → she doesn't regard the OP as human beings because of their lack of telepathy

## QUOTES!

sorted by theme

**Commented [4]:** keep it short, dont quote really longggg lines in essay & don't repeat evidence

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1. prejudice/discrimination

2. morality

3. regression

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “defilement” and “mockery of your maker” (pg 65) → <b>shows how even newborns are to be subjected to the harsh laws Waknuk has against mutants, and manifests into a lack of empathy as a result of prejudice &amp; conformity</b></li> <li>• (pg 72) “To pray to God to take it away is wrong; it’s like asking Him to strike you blind, or make you deaf.” → <b>the effects of Waknuk’s discrimination against mutants like David become very apparent here as he views telepathy more of as a curse than a blessing</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (pg 169) “the living form defies evolution at its peril... the idea of a completed man is the supreme vanity: the finished image is a sacrilegious myth.” → <b>the image of god does not exist as man will keep evolving and his form will change, and trying to curb that change is how Waknuk regresses (progress is inevitable)</b></li> <li>• (pg 169) “soon they will atom the stability they strive for, in the only form it is granted — a place among the fossils.” → <b>the sealand woman is trying to say that the only place meant for those who refuse to seek and embrace progress is with the dinosaurs</b></li> </ul>
4. Reliability of sources/truth	5. Progress	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Out of that blankness stretched a few strands of legend, badly frayed in their passage through successive minds.” → <b>the story becomes distorted and the real truth is unknown because so much time has already passed since the repentances was written</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (pg 71) “well, we might try being ourselves, and build for the world that is instead of for one that’s gone.” → <b>relying on the logic of things, Axel is saying that since Waknukians have no idea what the old people’s world was like, Waknuk should build a society not in the footsteps of anyone else but themselves.</b></li> <li>• (pg 70) “where are they and their wonderful world now?” → <b>here, Axel is saying that there is no longer any trace of the seemingly perfect society that the old people had created, suggesting that they weren’t so perfect after all since they cease to exist at the current time</b></li> <li>• (pg 70) “It was something vast, yet something beneath the wisdom of God.” → <b>Axel is saying that since</b></li> </ul>	

	<p>it couldn't have been God who created the mass of Deviations, it must've been man; questioning and relying on science allowed him to get to this conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (pg 71) "Souls are just counters for churches to collect... what makes man man is mind; it's not a thing, it's a quality." → <b>this line sets Axel apart from the rest of the characters as he is able to understand that physical traits don't matter as much as a man's mind</b></li></ul>	
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## THE FRINGES

- characters who are part of the fringes: Sophie, Gordon Storm (spider-man)
- Ethical system of people in the Fringes:
  - It's possible that they feel that they're right for raiding Waknuk (for food & resources) since Waknukians are the ones who kicked them out
  - chapter 14, pg 142-143: one of the Fringes men tells David that "*it's your part where the old Devil's hanging on and looking after his own.*" → people of both the Fringes and Waknuk are unaccepting of each other → each society feels their own beliefs are superior over others

### how it shapes character

- When David and Sophie reunite, Sophie tells David that she wishes she were able to give Gordon children, but she cannot because of the fact that she has been sterilised → Sophie's character has been shaped by BOTH Waknuk and the Fringes in similar (?) ways
  - Being sterilised and exiled from Waknuk because of her deformity could have hardened her character → lost her childlike innocence that she displayed in the early parts of the book when she was playing by the riverbank with David. The

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discrimination she faced had led to her childhood being stolen away from her as she was merely a child when she was caught as a Deviation. She was exposed to the harsh realities of the world

- In chapter 16, when Sophie tells Rosalind to get rid of the cross she's wearing because it hasn't done her any good in the Fringes (pg 163), this goes to show that her own personal experiences here have also made her more astute. Later on, Sophie even kills the captors of Rosalind and Petra, which is in contrast to her character earlier in the book, and shows how her circumstances and situation have shaped her to become someone who needs to be able to hold her own in these harsh conditions

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## LITERATURE PRELIM 2024

### (a) Family loyalty trumps all else. Explore how true this is in the novel

Not quite true

1. The Aunt Harriet incident where Emily forsakes her own family relations
  - It was expected that Emily would agree to the exchange of babies but instead of helping her out, Emily berated her and asked her how she has the audacity to demand that of her. Calls the baby (her niece) a defilement → just because they are related by blood, it doesn't mean they have any kinship.
  - Emily gave birth to 2 devotional babies but can't be empathetic towards her own sister? → Emily has become indoctrinated by Joseph Storm because of her fear of being kicked out by him (because of gender inequality and misogyny) as a result, this led to her rejecting the offer to help Harriet
2. Joseph punishing David:
  - (chapter 3) when David wishes for a third hand: David's casual remark was received with a lot of violence by Joseph → their kinship isn't really there and there's a lack of love between the two → in their conversation Joseph was just talking down to him, and punished him by making him kneel and pray → he upholds the repentances over his own family
  - when David is found out for hiding Sophie, Joseph is enraged and behaves in a very illogical manner
  - when David's telepathic abilities are found out
  - Gordon (Joseph's brother) being exiled in the fringes → as someone with so much power he had the chance to save his brother but he didn't. → could change the law but doesn't

HOWEVER,

Instance where it is true

1. Axel sacrifices himself by killing Alan to protect David (motivation) → sacrifices his own freedom because he hopes that David will live a better life in a better society + proves his family loyalty as he wants a much better life and future for his nephew → shows his love and concern
  - (pg 108) *"Then I put a new string on my bow."*
2. David protecting Petra till they reach Sealand → he brings Petra on the journey to the fringes and kills attackers to protect Petra
3. Sophie's parents put themselves in a vulnerable position in order to protect and take care of Sophie: they live a very nomadic life in order to protect Sophie → shows parental love they have for Sophie

(b) The environment of a society shapes a character. Explain how this is true in 2 settings of the novel.

True:

- Joseph and David fighting about David wishing for a third hand → due to his upbringing as the son of the very pious Elias Storm, he grew up absorbing these ideas too
- Alan found Sophie and David at the bank and told the Inspector of how children are brought up to believe in the true image of god → blinded by this to act against those with deformities in a harsh way and expose them → as children are brought up to believe that deformities = evil, could lead to violence between children
- Anne's desire to be normal: despite being an outcast, she still sees herself as being evil for deviating from the norm since she lives in fear of being found out and being persecuted, she denounces herself and forms a negative impression of herself because of societal pressure. CONTRAST: Rosalind was forced to become an independent and confident woman due to the beliefs of society that required her to fend for herself

(c)(i) How does Wyndham use words and images to create atmosphere in this passage?

- *"warn me very seriously"* → Mary warning David shows that his dream of a city might be very dangerous because it could lead to him facing serious consequences for mentioning it, hence he has to be cautious.

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- *"slight disapproval"* → shows the rigidity of people in Waknuk who follow Nicholson's Repentances, and how any idea that doesn't align with their beliefs is frowned upon
- *"unwise"* → the fact that it is merely a dream and yet Rosalind warns him because of how something so simple is enough to draw their disapproval, and how they are so averse to different concepts they don't believe
- *"advice stuck"* → as David grew up, he learnt the importance of keeping things that may not align with the teachings of Nicholson's Repentances a secret as it meant his safety could have been at stake + suggests **David's realisation of Waknuk's oppressive nature**
- *"Quite unlike any I knew"* → different from his usual experiences, creating a sense of wonder and fascination for the unknown
- *"Carts running with no horses to pull them"* → this draws a comparison between Waknuk and Sealand. There are no such carts in Waknuk but these do exist in Sealand (driverless cars...?)
- *"Shiny fish-shaped things that certainly weren't birds"* → contrast of the bird and fish (one lives on land one lives in the sea) → shows how jarring that sight was → gives the reader the impression that David's society isn't very advanced because all these are so foreign to him and he only sees it in his dream/ doesn't have access to these things

(c)(ii) How does the description of David's dream about the city foreshadow his future understanding of the world beyond Waknuk? Support your answer with details from the **rest of the novel**.

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Future understanding of the world:

- Not everything outside of Waknuk is a deviation
- Things outside of Waknuk are quite advanced (Sealanders using guns whilst Waknukians are fighting with bows and arrows, using horses for movement)
- Sealand is very advanced compared to Waknuk. They have advanced technology like guns and web fluid that could save lives CONTRASTING Waknuk's current state where it is extremely un-advanced (fighting with bows & arrows)
- With the Sealanders coming to Waknuk, the Sealand women is supposedly part of the mutated with special abilities but this goes against what David had been taught because the Sealanders were trying to save his life → goes against the Wakukian belief system

Differences/ similarities between Sealand and Waknuk:

- (D) Waknukians are scared of change and hence will continue the way they are, leading to an inevitable end of being taken over by more progressive kinds. On the other hand, Sealanders embrace change and this leads to the progress of civilisation which they will eventually not be able to keep up with → not hesitant to kill anything that hinders their progression

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- Waknukians are seemingly more compassionate than Sealander even though they kill mutants? They are more merciful BUT still sterilise mutants → view torture as more humane than killing them?

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## MSHS PRELIM PAPER 1 2024

[literature essays](#)

(a) Explore two moments in the novel where you feel that Wyndham strongly criticises the Waknuk society.

Question breakdown: the question is asking for an analysis of two episodes/incidents in the book where Wyndham's disapproval is expressed towards the Waknukian society/ beliefs/ ideology

Possible moments:

- Third hand incident (chapter 3, pages 21-23)
- the Inspector's conversation with David about Sophie (chapter 6, pages 47-48)
- Inspector's delayed and protracted examination of Petra after her birth (chapter 7, pages 59-61)
- Aunt Harriet incident (chapter 8, pages 62-66)
- Axel's criticism of Waknuk's beliefs (pages 69-72)
- Torture of Katherine and Sally in captivity (chapter 12, pg 119-121)

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## FMSS PRELIM PAPER 1

(a) How far does Wyndham encourage you to admire the Sealand woman?

Possible answers:

- The Sealand woman is presented as a beacon of hope for David and his friends

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- Sealand woman is presented to be cruel/pragmatic
  - Releases sticky threads that kills all living beings, whether it be humans or the trees
  - She regards killing as a necessity, and sacrifice as 'a part of the greater wheel of natural economy' → no qualms about killing to preserve her own species
- sealand woman's outlook on life is not so different from the people of Waknuk
  - She regards those who can 'think-together' as a superior variant, much like how the people of Waknuk regard themselves as purer and more pious than those who are different from them
  - Both societies of Sealand and Waknuk believe in preserving their species from deterioration, and protecting it from the threat of a superior variant

(b) In what ways does Wyndham explore the change of the idea in the novel?

Question breakdown + focus:

- "In what ways" → explore writer's craft
- "Idea of change" → leans towards theme

Possible answers:

- Exploring Waknuk's perspective on their resistance to change
  - Wanuk is rigidly controlled and resistant to ANY form of deviation → emphasising conformity and purity. Resistance to change is depicted through strict laws and religious dogma
- Exploring Sealand's perspective: embracing change
  - Sealanders view change to be inevitable
  - *"The essential living of quality is change"*
  - Although Sealanders adapt change and evolution, their worldview is problematic because there is a segregation between superior and inferior kinds of change (idea of preserving the superior kind)
- Explore changes (or lack thereof) that various characters undergo in the text
  - David, who has been brought up with the teachings of their rigid doctrine, go against Waknuk's belief system (see his thought after meeting Sophie) → rejects the true Image doctrine and changes for the better
  - Joseph: foil character who doesn't go through much change. Serves as a staunch enforcer of Waknuk's anti-deviation laws + doesn't change stance even when well-being of family is threatened (Aunt Harriet, joining the hunt for his own children)

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# YUHUA PRELIM PAPER 1

- (a) In what ways does the author make readers sympathise with the Deviations? Answer with reference at least to two characters.

Sophie Wender:

- Wyndham elicits sympathy for the Deviations through Sophie's character.
- Sophie's refusal to remove her shoe and free herself from the rock, even while in tears and extreme pain conveys the depth of her fear.
- This willingness to endure intense suffering rather than reveal her extra toe conveys the level of terror ingrained in her mind
- Wyndham compels the reader to sympathise with Sophie because she's in such a plight. Her fear and struggle evokes **a sense of profound compassion for her**

Anne:

- Wyndham exemplifies the unfair limitations Deviations are placed under
- Anne's impassioned plea to be able to marry Alan → asserts her right to also attain happiness despite being a Deviation
- (pg 84) *"I didn't ask to be the way we are; but I've as much right to get what I can out of life as anyone else."*
- Anne grapples with emotional anguish in her quest for normalcy, evoking a sense of sympathy from readers as they just want a simple and unsophisticated life.
- Anne has to choose between her happiness and the safety of her fellow telepaths → uses this to bring up the question of the morality of a society that forces individuals to choose between their happiness and their safety → highlights the cruel reality of their existence, sympathy for characters who have to suffer unfair treatment

The Fringes:

- The way the Fringes is described is presented to be very desolate, the exact opposite of the comfortable life Waknukians live (eg the Fringe people having to raid Waknuk for resources since they suffer from a lack of it. Rotting vegetation, stagnant, distorted trees.)
- Inhabitants of the Fringes are forcibly cut off from their loved ones and a society they once called home, living in a constant state of deprivation and hunger.
- Plight of inhabitants is further humanised through characters like Gordon, who was exiled for his physical deviation.
- Gordon holds a lot of bitterness towards Waknuk society, accusing them of willfully ignoring the humanity of those they deem different.
- The text also shows how the people of the Fringes have to raid Waknuk for resources → highlights the desperate measures people have to take to merely survive → compels readers to **question the morality of a system that**

**discards those they deem to be 'imperfect' condemning them to a life of hardship**

(b) How does *The Chrysalids* explore the concept of identity?